

Remarks

The claims have been amended to place the claims in a format suitable for prosecution before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The claims were not amended in order to address issues of patentability.

New claims 13 and 14 have been added to cover the multiple dependencies of claim 4 as originally filed.

New claims 15 and 16 have been added to cover the multiple dependencies of claim 5 as originally filed.

New claims 17 and 18 have been added to cover the multiple dependencies of claim 9 as originally filed.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that claims 1-18 distinguish patentably and non-obviously over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. An early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

If any fees are due in connection with this Preliminary Amendment, the authorization to charge deposit account 14-1270 for the fees associated therewith is hereby provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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